

FELLOWSHIP EXPECTATIONS

In collaboration with mentors, Fellows are expected to develop and implement a research project, publish and present research results, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational and clinical activities.

SUPPORT

Psychiatrists: Stipends will be based on years of previously completed ACGME-accredited residency training and index rates approved at the respective VA facility and affiliated university.

Psychologists: Stipend rates are currently \$37,000 per annum. These stipends are reviewed biannually and are adjusted according to rates paid by comparable non-VA postdoctoral fellowship programs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Psychiatrists: Eligible psychiatrists must have completed ACGME-accredited training, be board certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice. International medical graduates also must have a current visa and appropriate ECFMG documentations.

Psychologists: Eligible psychologists must have graduated from an American Psychological Association (APA) accredited doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology. Completion of an APA accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology also is required.

APPLICATIONS

Interested psychiatrists and psychologists who meet the eligibility requirements should send a cover letter and curriculum vita to the MIRECC Fellowship site of their choice.

CONTACT INFORMATION

VISN 1: VA Connecticut Healthcare System/ Yale University

Psychiatry Contact

Bruce Rounsaville, M.D.
bruce.rounsaville@yale.edu
(203)932-5711 x7401

Psychology Contact

Kathleen M. Carroll, Ph.D.
kathleen.carroll@yale.edu
(203)932-5711 x7403

VISN 3: VA NY/NJ VA Healthcare Network/ Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Psychiatry Contact

Lina Shihabuddin, M.D.
lina.shihabuddin@med.va.gov
(718)584-9000 x5169

Psychology Contact

Philip Harvey, Ph.D.
pdharvey@compuserve.com
(212)659-8713

VISN 4: Philadelphia VA Medical Center/ University of Pennsylvania

Psychiatry Contact

Ira Katz, M.D., Ph.D.
katzi@mail.med.upenn.edu
(215)349-8225

Psychology Contact

Anna Rose Childress, Ph.D.
Childress_A@mail.trc.upenn.edu
(215)222-3200 x135

VISN 5: VA Maryland Health Care System/ University of Maryland Medical Center

Psychiatry Contact

Paul Ruskin, M.D.
Paul.ruskin@med.va.gov
(410)605-7354

Psychology Contact

John Junginger, Ph.D.
John.Junginger@med.va.gov
(410)605-7817

VISN 16: Houston VA Medical Center/ Baylor College of Medicine

Psychiatry Contact

Mark Kunik, M.D.
mkunik@bcm.tmc.edu
(713)794-8639

Psychology Contact

Nancy Jo Dunn, Ph.D.
ndunn@bcm.tmc.edu
(713)794-7787

VISN 20: VA Puget Sound Healthcare System/ University of Washington

Psychiatry Contact

Elaine Peskind, M.D.
peskind@u.washington.edu
(206)764-2749

Psychology Contact

Miles McFall, Ph.D.
miles.mcfall@med.va.gov
(206)764-2177

VISN 21: VA Palo Alto Healthcare System/ Stanford University

Psychiatry Contact

Jerome Yesavage, M.D.
yesavage@stanford.edu
(650)852-3287

Psychology Contact

Ruth O'Hara, Ph.D.
roh@stanford.edu
(650)852-3287

VISN 22: VA San Diego Healthcare System/ University of San Diego

Psychiatry Contact

James Lohr, M.D.
jloh@ucsd.edu
(858)552-8585 x2261

Psychology Contact

Lisa Eyler Zorrilla, Ph.D.
lisaz@ucsd.edu
(858)552-8585 x7666

VISN 21 is the coordinating Hub site of the Fellowship Program. For general inquiries regarding the program, visit the website: <http://mirecc.stanford.edu>, email vamireccfellowship@lists.stanford.edu or call (650)493-5000 x63617.

Office of Academic Affiliations website:
<http://www.va.gov/oa/>

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ADVANCED PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The VA Office of Academic Affiliations is offering the VA Special Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology at eight VA Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) sites across the country. The goal of this two-year interdisciplinary program is to train psychiatrists and psychologists to become leading clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health. This fellowship program will provide outstanding training in academic and health systems research, interdisciplinary educational activities, and advanced clinical service delivery and program administration in exceptional learning environments at MIRECC sites.

The purpose of the MIRECCs is to develop state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research and innovative clinical treatments in order to improve clinical standards of care for veterans and all Americans who experience mental illness. MIRECC sites are found throughout the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN).

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

This VA Special Fellowship Program combines individual mentored research and clinical training with state-of-the-art educational experiences. Educational experiences focus on biostatistical methods, health informatics, administrative training, and the latest advances in relevant areas of science. Fellowship sites are linked electronically for didactic, academic, and research efforts. Fellows complete two years in a personalized and specially integrated curriculum spending approximately 75 percent time in research and education, and 25 percent time in clinical activities. Fellows carry out their research, educational, and clinical activities at the MIRECC Fellowship site.

Below is a list of the participating MIRECC Fellowship sites, their affiliated universities, and the primary focus of each MIRECC. Contact information is located on the back of the brochure.

VA MIRECC FELLOWSHIP SITES AND UNIVERSITIES

VISN 1: VA Connecticut Health Care System/West Haven Campus/Yale University
950 Campbell Avenue, (151D)
West Haven, CT 06516

The central theme is the development and evaluation of innovative pharmacologic and behavioral treatments and improved health care delivery systems for dually diagnosed veterans. Interests range from molecular genetics to pharmacologic and behavioral treatments and psychiatric health services research. This multi-disciplinary program trains Fellows to conduct research that moves rapidly between preclinical projects (“bench”) and clinical studies (“bedside” and “community”).

VISN 3: VA NY/NJ Veterans Healthcare Network/Mount Sinai School of Medicine
130 W. Kingsbridge Road
Bronx, NY, 10486

Fellows learn a full range of methodologies to investigate the causes of serious mental illness in veteran patients, develop novel treatment approaches, and evaluate ways of enhancing the recovery of these veterans. Training takes place within the context of integrated research/clinical services.

VISN 4: VAMC Philadelphia, PA/University of Pennsylvania
University and Woodland Avenue, (116)
Philadelphia, PA 19104

At this site, Fellows can gain expertise in (1) pharmacological and behavioral treatments for alcohol and cocaine abuse, depression, and drug-related mental disorders; (2) Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, schizophrenia, and depression in older adults; and (3) health services related to substance abuse.

VISN 5: VA Maryland Health Care System/University of Maryland Medical Center
10 North Greene Street
Baltimore, MD, 21201

Research focuses on schizophrenia and other chronic mental illnesses. Within the domain of schizophrenia, there is particular emphasis on substance abuse, psychopharmacology, neuropsychological factors in rehabilitation, health behaviors and medical comorbidity, women veterans with severe mental illness, and service delivery systems.

VISN 16: VAMC Houston/Baylor College of Medicine
2002 Holcombe Boulevard, (116B)
Houston, TX 77030

Mental health services and neuroimaging/neuropsychology research focus on clinically meaningful investigations of neuroanatomic, neurochemical, and neuropsychological brain dysfunction. Fellows can be trained in the issues of access, utilization, outcomes, and treatment effectiveness related to gerontology, PTSD, and in the characterization of the underlying neuroanatomy and neurochemistry of mental illness.

VISN 20: VA Puget Sound Health Care System/ University of Washington
1660 South Columbian Way, (116)
Seattle, WA 98108

Primary areas of research on PTSD and schizophrenia are basic biobehavioral processes and mechanisms, clinical outcomes of pharmacological and behavior change treatment trials, and health service delivery and program evaluation of clinical interventions. Fellows can participate in a wide range of studies, such as the genetics of schizophrenia and PTSD and the reduction of health risk behaviors associated with PTSD.

VISN 21: VA Palo Alto Health Care System/Palo Alto Division, Stanford University
3801 Miranda Avenue, (151Y)
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Research focuses on interdisciplinary studies predicting the efficacy and effectiveness of treatments for veterans with behavioral, cognitive, or functional problems associated with PTSD or dementia. Fellows can participate in research planning and dissemination, educational activities, and clinical service delivery within different disciplines, such as genetics, neurochemistry, neuroimaging, and psychosocial disciplines.

VISN 22: VA San Diego Health Care System/University of San Diego
3350 La Jolla Village Drive, (MC116A)
San Diego, CA 92161

The focus is chronic psychotic illness. Fellows will benefit from expertise in basic science and molecular genetics, imaging studies, psychophysiology, neuropsychology, pharmacological and psychotherapeutic treatment, and health services relating to schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder. There also is a strong focus on geriatric mental health.